

FRANK C. ROSS PAPERS

MsSC 101

BIOGRAPHY

Frank C. Ross was born in Pittsfield, Illinois, on March 20, 1858 to Martha and Marcellus Ross. Raised and educated in Pike County, Illinois, Ross made his first visit to the west coast in 1877. Two years later, he followed his brother Charles to Tacoma. After his arrival, he operated several businesses before opening a real estate office in 1883. In 1881, Frank joined in a partnership with his brother in the "fruit confectionery business," a venture that was successful and lasted until Charles' death in 1883.

Also in 1881, Frank purchased lots (on South 9th from St. Helens Ave. to E Street) from the Tacoma Land Company for \$225 and sold the land for \$1000. In the same year, he and his brother bought the southeast corner of Pacific Avenue and 11th Street for \$750. Within a few years, the property sold for \$10,000. These land sales illustrated to Frank Ross the potential of the real estate business in Tacoma. Therefore, when his brother died in 1883, Frank sold the "fruit confectionery business" and went into real estate.

By 1889-1890, Ross was president of the Tacoma and Lake City Railroad and Navigation Company, a railroad he built for a distance of 12 miles from Tacoma to American Lake. The line went from North 26th Street and Union Avenue to the north side of American Lake. He and his partners later sold the railroad to the Union Pacific for a "tidy sum."

In 1892, Ross began grading for a railroad to Seattle. It was on this project that Ross ran into trouble with the federal government. Part of his railroad lines ran for three miles through the Puyallup Reservation lands. Further, Ross used Puyallup Indians in the construction. In the ensuing argument, Ross defied troopers from Vancouver Barracks, led by Captain Carpenter, in their efforts to eject him and the Puyallup from laying tracks. The Puyallups drove off the soldiers with picks and shovels and the officers threatened to return the next day and fire on the party if it was still there. Early the next morning, Ross' attorneys obtained a writ from Judge Fremont Campbell of King County. Sheriff Charles Woollery served the writ on Captain Carpenter. Carpenter refused to accept the writ and was arrested in his tent. The case was

heard in Seattle and a ruling was rendered in favor of Ross. Ross also won in U.S. Superior court but lost when the government appealed the decision.

Undaunted by this setback, Ross continued his endeavors in his real estate and railroad businesses. Ross was active, with Fremont Campbell, Jerry Meeker, and George Taylor, in platting the Hyada Park area at Brown's Point. He also sold land near present day Fort Lewis to the Dupont Powder Works. Many of the streets, east of the Puyallup River on the tideflats, were named by Ross. In 1905, Ross and Allen C. Mason sold to the Chicago and Milwaukee Railroad Company 90 acres of ocean and rail terminal tidelands for \$90,000. This was the first purchase made by the railroad company after it decided to build in the Puget Sound region. Ross was also instrumental in obtaining plank roads on Lincoln and Sitcum Avenues and in the building of two Puyallup River bridges, one at 11th Street and the other at Canal Street.

An enthusiastic civic booster, Ross continued his tireless promotion of Tacoma. This enthusiasm continued after his retirement until his death in 1947. He pushed for better roads, more rail traffic, better port facilities, and the development of more industry in the "City of Destiny."

SCOPE & CONTENT

This collection provides an invaluable glimpse of the early growth of Tacoma from the late 19th century up to the middle of the 20th century. The bulk of this collection consists primarily of Frank C. Ross' personal papers, especially correspondence with family members and genealogical materials, and his private business papers. Much of Ross' papers were dispersed at his death and this collection contains only a fragmentary portion on his records.

Ross' business files consist chiefly of specific projects with which he was involved. Little of his real estate and railroad firms records are located in this collection. However, the business portion of Ross' papers clearly illustrate his fervent belief in Tacoma. Business records can be found in the article, biography, correspondence, deed, ephemera, financial, pamphlet, project, and report files. They are also illustrated in the scrapbooks, which contain information on railroads, projects and especially the growth of Tacoma. The correspondence files contain of wealth of information on Tacoma businesses, national and international

trade, improvement of roads and bridges, railroads in the Pacific Northwest, and the promotion of Tacoma. Perhaps the best insight into which business interests Frank Ross was involved with can be found in

the project files. The project files center around Ross' work with the Hylebos and Wapato Waterways, Naches Pass, National Park Highway, Nisqually Bridge and Flats, the Puyallup River, Tacoma Tideflats, Washington State Highway Number 1, White Pass Highway, and the Yelm-Alder Highway. Further information on Ross' projects is found in the pamphlet files.

Aside from business records, Ross' papers contain a wealth of genealogical information of the Ross and Kellogg families. Genealogical information can be found in the article, biography, deed, ephemera, photograph, and especially the genealogy files. The genealogy files contain correspondence, biographies, lists of births and deaths, family and county histories, and diaries. Much of this material dates from the 1830s to around 1900. When integrated with his business records, the genealogical files describe a man who helped change the face of Tacoma from the late 19th century through the middle of the 20th century.

INCLUSIVE DATES

1828-1947

RESTRICTIONS

None

VOLUME

2 Linear Feet

ACCESSION NUMBERS

1998.0.2

ACQUISITION DATES

Unknown

FILE LISTING

BOX 1: ARTICLES; BIOGRAPHY; CORRESPONDENCE.

1. Articles: Newspaper Clipping File 1900-46 (Part 1).
2. Articles: Newspaper Clipping File 1900-46 (Part 2).
3. Articles: Newspaper Clipping File 1900-46 (Part 3).
4. Biography: Frank C. Ross.
5. Biography: Certificates—Knights of Pythias of the World 1882-4.
6. Biography: Eulogy of Frank Ross by George Talbott 1947.
7. Correspondence: 1880-1905.
8. Correspondence: 1909-1911.
9. Correspondence: 1912-1915.
10. Correspondence: 1915.
11. Correspondence: 1916.
12. Correspondence: 1917.
13. Correspondence: 1918.
14. Correspondence: 1919.
15. Correspondence: 1920.
16. Correspondence: 1921-1922.
17. Correspondence: 1923.
18. Correspondence: 1924-1925.
19. Correspondence: 1928-1935.
20. Correspondence: 1936-1937.
21. Correspondence: 1938-1939.

BOX 2: CORRESPONDENCE; DEEDS; EPHEMERA; FINANCIAL RECORDS; GENEALOGY RECORDS.

1. Correspondence: 1940-1944.
2. Correspondence: 1944.
3. Correspondence: 1945-1946 (Including Undated Correspondence).
4. Correspondence: Area Railroads 1889-1945.
5. Correspondence: Hartley, Roland H. 1932-1941.
6. Correspondence: Humes, Samuel H. 1932-1941.
7. Correspondence: Lane, Franklin K. (Secretary of the Interior) 1919.
8. Correspondence: Langlie, Arthur B. 1940-1945.
9. Correspondence: Mackley, Albert C. 1912-1945.
10. Correspondence: Marshall, George C. (General) 1939-1943.

11. Correspondence: Martin, Clarence D. 1935-1944.
12. Correspondence: Roosevelt, Franklin D. 1936-1945.
13. Correspondence: Ross Family 1880-1946.
14. Correspondence: Ross, Henry J. 1867-1909.
15. Correspondence: Schwellenbach, Lewis B. (Senator) 1938.
16. Correspondence: Talcott, George N. 1911-1937.
17. Correspondence: Talcott, George N. 1938-1946.
18. Correspondence: Washington State Historical Society 1919-1937.
19. Deed: August 28, 1888—Oyster Bed Claim of Frank Ross.
20. Deed: April 15, 1893—John and Susie Cook to Frank Ross.
21. Deed: April 15, 1903—Campbell and Meeker to Frank Ross.
22. Deed: October 3, 1904—Frank Ross and Howard Abbott, et. al.
23. Deed: June 25, 1910—Safety Investment Company to Frank Ross.
24. Deed: October 9, 1918—Burial Plot.
25. Deed: May 24, 1920—William Turner to Frank Ross.
26. Deed: June 12, 1925—Willapa Improvement Co. to Frank Ross.
27. Deed: Correspondence and Non-Deed Documents 1898-1935.
28. Ephemera: 1908-1942.
29. Financial: Bills and Receipts 1885-1928.
30. Financial: Loans—Frank Ross 1905-1924.
31. Genealogy: Autograph Album—Lydia Kellogg 1832-33.

BOX 3: GENEALOGY; PAMPHLETS; PHOTOGRAPHS.

1. Genealogy: Biography—Marcellus and Martha Ross 1907.
2. Genealogy: Births and Deaths—Ross Family.
3. Genealogy: Constitution, Articles of Faith, Covenant and List of Members of the First Congregational Church of Pittsfield, Illinois 1843.
4. Genealogy: Correspondence—Marcellus and Martha Ross 1852-81.
5. Genealogy: Correspondence—Marcellus and Martha Ross 1882-1900.
6. Genealogy: Correspondence—Marcellus and Martha Ross 1900-07.
7. Genealogy: Correspondence—Marcellus and Martha Ross 1907-17.
8. Genealogy: Correspondence—Marcellus and Martha Ross Undated (Part 1).
9. Genealogy: Correspondence—Marcellus and Martha Ross Undated (Part 2).
10. Genealogy: Correspondence—William Ross 1838-1866.

11. Genealogy: Deed—Chipman, W.F. to Marcellus Ross 1887.
12. Genealogy: Deed—Kellogg, Nathaniel & Sarah to Martha Ross 1891.
13. Genealogy: Deed—McCoy, Alexander to Mark Aiken 1851.
14. Genealogy: Deed—McCoy, Reuben to Marcellus Ross 1881.
15. Genealogy: Deed—Ross, Frank to Marcellus Ross 1885.
16. Genealogy: Deed—Ross, Marcellus: Burial Plot 1883.
17. Genealogy: Deed—Ross, Marcellus to Martha Ross 1892.
18. Genealogy: Deed—Ross, Martha to Milton W. Smith 1912.
19. Genealogy: Deed—Ross, William 1828-1873.
20. Genealogy: Deed—Ross, William to Henry J. Ross 1861.
21. Genealogy: Deed—Ross, William to Marcellus Ross 1859.
22. Genealogy: Deed—Ross, William to Marcellus Ross 1861.
23. Genealogy: Deed—Ross, William to Marcellus Ross 1861.
24. Genealogy: Deed—Ross, William to Marcellus Ross 1867.
25. Genealogy: Deed—Ross, William to Marcellus Ross 1870.
26. Genealogy: Deed—Ross, William to Marcellus Ross 1871.
27. Genealogy: Deed—Ross, William to Marcellus Ross 1871.
28. Genealogy: Deed—Smith, Jesse A. to Marcellus Ross 1866.
29. Genealogy: Deed—Webb, Sylvester to Charles Kellogg 1846.
30. Genealogy: Diary—Charles Ross 1869. NOTE: Use of this item is restricted due to fragile physical nature of the diary.
31. Genealogy: History 1918-1919.
32. Genealogy: Membership Card—Pike County Agricultural Society, Marcellus Ross.
33. Genealogy: Pamphlet—*The Kelloggs in the Old World and the New*, 1901.
34. Pamphlet: *Apples of Gold Library, No. 58—Three Sabbaths: The Lord's Sabbath, the Jewish Sabbath, and the Papal Sabbath.* 1898.
35. Pamphlet: *Apples of Gold Library, No. 86—Is Man Immortal?* 1899.
36. Pamphlet: *The Fork of the Road* 1946.
37. Pamphlet: Golf at Hayden—Idaho's Most Charming Lake Resort.
38. Pamphlet: Grover Cleveland 1896.
39. Pamphlet: The Insurgent #18 1912.
40. Pamphlet: Lee in Hall of Fame 1910.
41. Pamphlet: Miss Laura Jones, '96, Solo Vocalist 1896.
42. Pamphlet: Northern Pacific, Western Divisions—Time Schedule #18 1882.
43. Pamphlet: The Olympicans, Inc. 1937.

44. Pamphlet: *Pike County—Its Past and Present* 1907.
45. Pamphlet: Religious Liberty Leaflets, No. 1—*Principles Too Little Understood*
46. Pamphlet: Religious Liberty Leaflets, No. 4—The Civil Sabbath.
47. Pamphlet: Ross Brothers Store Flyer 1880.
48. Pamphlet: Statue of Washington on Puget Sound—The Tacoma Public Forum
49. Pamphlet: Tacoma, the City of Destiny and Washington Territory—Their Advantages and Inducements.
50. Photographs: 1875-1904.
51. Photographs: 1910-1912 (and Undated).

BOX 4: POEMS; PROJECT FILES; REPORTS; SCRAPBOOKS.

1. Poems: 1937-1941.
2. Poems: Talcott, George N. 1938-1946.
3. Project: Hylebos and Wapato Waterways—Correspondence 1903-45.
4. Project: Naches Pass 1933-1941.
5. Project: National Park Highway 1935.
6. Project: Nisqually Bridge 1937.
7. Project: Nisqually Flats—Correspondence 1925-1941.
8. Project: Puyallup River—Correspondence 1898-1944.
9. Project: Puyallup to Tacoma Tideflats—Correspondence 1925-1944.
10. Project: Tacoma Tide Lands—Correspondence 1902-1946.
11. Project: Washington State Highway #1—Correspondence 1927-46.
12. Project: White Pass Highway—Correspondence 1935.
13. Project: Yelm-Alder Highway—Correspondence 1936-1940.
14. Report: Big Indian "Winscott" Gold Mines, Helena, Montana 1901.
15. Scrapbook: 1902-1909 Various Subjects.

BOX 5: SCRAPBOOKS.

1. Scrapbook: 1890-1900 Railroads.
2. Scrapbook: 1893-1916 Indians
3. Scrapbook: 1883-1886 Various Subjects

BOX 6 (Oversize A): SCRAPBOOKS.

1. Scrapbook: 1882-1888 Various Subjects

SUBJECTS:

BROAD SUBJECTS:

Armed Forces—	Harding, Warren G.	Port Facilities
U.S. Army	U.S. President	Roads
Depression-1929-U.S.	—Death, 1923	Real Property
Energy Conservation	Railroads—	Shipping Industry
Forest Conservation	Construction	World War, 1914-1918
Forestry Industry	Pacific Northwest	Effect on Tacoma
Genealogy	Roads—	World War, 1939-1945
International Relations	Pierce County	Charities
—Japan	Washington State	Civil Defense
International Trade	Tacoma—	Construction
—Japan	Businesses	Homefront
Mining Industry	History	Military
Presidential Campaigns	Improvements—	Transportation
—Roosevelt, Franklin	Bridges	War Production

AGENCIES & CORPORATIONS:

Chicago and North	Knights of Phytias	Tacoma & Lake City
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Western Railway Co.	McNeill & Stam, R.E.	RR & Navigation Co.
Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad Company	Agents Monday Civic Club Mt. Tacoma Club	Tacoma Chamber of Commerce Tacoma <u>Daily News</u>
Civilian Conservation Corps	Northern Pacific RR Co. Oregon Railway and Navigation Company	Tacoma Land Co. Tacoma <u>News Tribune</u>
S.J. Clarke Publ. Co.	Pacific Traction Co.	Union Pacific Ry. Co.
Commencement Bay Land & Improvement Company	Pierce Co. Boulevards Association	US—Japan Tourist Association
Coos Bay Lumber Co.	Pioneer Assn. of WA.	WA State Good Roads Association
Fidelity Trust Co.	Reconstruction Finance Corporation of WA.	WA State Historical Historical Society
General Construction Hartman and Hartman	Safety Investment Co.	Willapa Improvement Company
Japanese M.L.S. Assn.	Fred E. Sander, Inc.	
Jefferson Square Improvement Club	Southern Pacific RR	

INDIVIDUALS:

Ashton, J.M.	Hartley, Roland H.	Quesby, Anna
Bane, Frank	Humes, Samuel H.	Reid, George
Bogue, V.G.	Ickes, Harold	Roberts, Natalie
Boland, M.D.	Jeffers, W.M.	Roosevelt, Franklin D.
Bonney, W.P.	Johnson, Albert	Ross, Anna
Bowen, W.J.	Kellogg, F.H.	Ross, Charles
Brown, A.L.	Kellogg, Hattie	Ross, Dora
Budd, Ralph	Kellogg, Lydia	Ross, Henry J.
Campbell, Fremont	Kline, Newman	Ross, Marcellus
Campbell, Marshall	Lane, Franklin K.	Ross, Marshall A.
Carrigan, M.J.	Langlie, Arthur	Ross, Martha
Case, Otto A.	Mackley, Albert C.	Ross, William
Coffee, John M.	Marshall, George C.	Savidge, Clark V.
Croft, Lee	Marshall, J.C.	Schwellenbach, L.B.
Cruikshank, Ray	Martin, Clarence D.	Short, E.T.
Davenport, J.L.	Mason, Allen C.	Sproule, James A.
Denny, C.E.	McCoy, Alexander	Stevenson, John C.
Edwards, Marie	Merrill, Nattie A.	Taft, William H.
Etara, Soroyu	Metcalf, Ralph	Talcott, George

Farley, James A.	Metsker, Charles	Wallace, H.C.
Fechner, Robert	Murphy, James A.	Wayson, O.H.
Gates, H.V.	Murrow, Lacey V.	Weffer, John
Gaylord, Eugenia A.	Nolan, N.F.	Wild, H.J.
Gaylord, J.A.	O'Farrell, James R.	Woon, Quang F.
Harris, Frank W.	Ohni, Beatrice	Yarnell, Alice
Harshberger, F.M.	Platt, C.A.	Zimmerman, T.S.

LOCATIONS:

California	Oregon	Lummi Island	Renton
San Francisco	Portland	Milton	Seattle
San Jose	Powers	Mt. Rainier	Shelton
Illinois	Washington	Naches Pass	Sherlock
Pike County	American Lake	Nisqually Flats	Spokane
Pittsfield	Browns Point	Olympia	Sumner
Japan	Fort Lewis	Pierce County	Tacoma
Tokyo	Gig Harbor	Prosser	Vancouver
Yokohama	Hylebos River	Puyallup	White Pass